

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

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Opening a New Veterinary Hospital

A veterinary hospital owner must obtain a veterinary hospital license from the Board if one of the following occurs:

- 1.) A new veterinary hospital, meaning a building or portion of a building which is regularly used for the treatment of animals by a veterinary practitioner, is constructed; or
- 2.) A veterinarian wishes to operate a mobile veterinary clinic offering or providing veterinary services for companion animals and the animals will be treated inside the mobile clinic. **Note: A veterinary hospital license is not needed for a housecall or farmcall-only practice.**

A few steps must be taken prior to opening the doors for business of a new veterinary hospital or mobile veterinary clinic:

a.) Print and review the laws and regulations governing the operation of a veterinary hospital in Maryland.

b.) Print and complete the new hospital application and submit it to the following address with a check or money order in the amount of \$215 no fewer than three weeks before the anticipated opening date: Fiscal Department, Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401. **Licensing fees are non-refundable.**

c.) The application will be reviewed by Board staff and, if complete, a Board inspector will be contacted.

d.) A Board inspector will contact the hospital owner to schedule a date and time to inspect the facility. This is considered an initial inspection. If the inspector has concerns over the condition of the hospital, the inspector will discuss these deficiencies with the hospital owner so they may be corrected prior to opening. If the deficiencies are significant, the inspector will perform a re-inspection prior to the business opening.

e.) When the inspector notifies the Board's office that the hospital has passed inspection, a hospital license will be printed and sent to the hospital owner. For stationary veterinary hospitals, this license must be posted in a conspicuous location within the hospital that is readily accessible by the public, such as at or near a receptionist's desk. For a mobile veterinary clinic, the hospital license shall be inside the unit and available for inspection. The hospital license shall expire on June 30 of each year unless the hospital owner seeks to re-license the facility.

If, after reviewing the above, you have any questions regarding acquisition of a hospital license, or whether a hospital requires inspection, please contact the Board's office at 410.841.5862.